

Plans pulled for golf resort in South Fork

Developers will check out other sites in state in next 4 months, will still submit hotel proposal.

By Dennis Romboy 8-19-93
Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — Developers of an upscale golf resort in the South Fork of Provo Canyon have pulled their plans and will look at other possible sites over the next four months.

But that doesn't mean Dr. Richard Parkinson, an Orem dermatologist, and Missouri hotelier John Q. Hammons won't step up again.

"It's just a 120-day wait-and-see type of thing," said Randy Deschamps, development consultant for Shingle Creek Development Co.

Deschamps said developers aren't disappointed. "This is kind of refreshing. It gives us a chance to look at some new and exciting things," he said. He wouldn't reveal possible locations but said they are in the state. "Mr. Hammons wants to be in Utah."

The delay won't hold up Hammons' plans to resubmit to the city a proposal for an Embassy Suites hotel on North University Avenue near the mouth of Provo Canyon.

"We're going to move ahead with that as fast as we can," Deschamps said. Developers

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intended to package stays at the hotel with golf in South Fork.

Snags in a proposed 99-year lease for 200 acres of city property known as Wallace Ranch in South Fork partly account for the project's withdrawal. Developers did not deliver their revision of the document to the city Tuesday. Because city officials wouldn't have had time to review the agreement, the City Council last week decided to postpone a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday. The council also wants to see a layout of the golf course, lodge, cabins, swimming pool and other amenities.

The delay will give both develop-

ers and council members time to explore other options. "We need and they need it," Deschamps said.

The city might use the time to determine the best use for South Fork.

"I think what this has done is drawn attention to the fact that we have to master-plan that canyon," Mayor Mike Hill said.

Issues regarding the construction of an estimated \$3.5 million sewer system and protection of South Fork springs, which supply Provo 30 percent of its water, remain unresolved. South Fork and Vivian Park residents use septic tanks.

Deschamps said developers can resolve those concerns but need time for further studies. "We know where the facts basically are. It just needs to be documented," he

said.

Residents oppose the plan because they don't want development and increased traffic to spoil the pristine canyon. They also fear sewer hookup fees will be astronomical and don't believe developers can protect the springs.

Hill attributed residents' fears to a lack of knowledge.

"They don't understand as well as I think they should understand," he said. "I think the public thinks we're going there to destroy something that's inherently beautiful."

Hill said the South Fork residents might have missed out on a chance for the canyon road to be improved and a sewer system installed.

Many residents at public hearings said they enjoy the canyon just the way it is.

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"I think we've got some good programs and the desire to help people," he said. "I think the way we are looking at dividing (the jobs) will make it a stronger program."

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guilty and was sentenced to 35 years to life in prison for the crimes. He subsequently attempted to withdraw his guilty pleas, but that motion has repeatedly been denied.

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It is now up to the Utah Board of Pardons to determine when or if Worthington will ever be released from prison. Because of Utah's indeterminate sentencing laws, the board can release an inmate whenever it wants.